

Workers of all ages defend pensions

French unions in revolt

By G. Dunkel

*Bulletin: The vote in the National Assembly took place March 20 and the government survived by nine votes. The battle continues.*

March 19 – With thousands of tons of uncollected garbage rotting in the gutters of Paris’ streets, hundreds of protesters arrested daily and the vast majority of the workers demanding the removal, if not the head, of French President Emmanuel Macron, his government faces a vote of no confidence in Parliament March 20, which will only open a new and more intense class struggle.

Macron has been pushing for a significant reduction in the benefits offered by France’s pension system, ever since he was reelected to a second term in 2022. The proposal, placed before Parliament this year, calls for raising the age for full retirement from 62 to 64. It requires more years of active work, gives less support for women and for people with physically demanding jobs or for those who work under harsh conditions.

All major French labor unions and student organizations have recognized Macron’s proposal as a major attack on the working class and have united in a coalition to combat it. The coalition held its first demonstration Jan. 19, which drew over 2 million protesters all over France, including in the big cities like Paris, Marseilles and Toulouse and in small- and medium-sized cities like Rodez and Besançon.

Since Jan. 19 was a workday, many protesters had to make use of their constitutional right to strike to join the action. Workers in some unions — working in refineries, electric distribution and production, and public transportation — held one- or two-day walkouts.

Since then there have been eight days of protests/strikes called by the union coalition. All the protests have involved millions of workers on the streets. More



Paris, Place de la Concorde, March 16, 2023.

than 3.5 million people joined the March 7 protest, this in a country with a population of 68 million.

Two significant strikes began March 7. The major refineries went out, and sanitation workers in Paris, as well as in Le Havre, Nantes, Antibes and Rennes, stopped working. By March 15, 10,000 tons of garbage were piled up on the sidewalks of Paris.

Government lights the fuse

After the French senate passed Macron’s package March 15, the next day Prime Minister Elisabeth Borne invoked constitutional provision 49.3 before the National Assembly to declare Macron’s proposal adopted as law. Using 49.3 removes all pretense that this move is “democratic” — it is rule by decree.

As Borne attempted to speak, the parliamentarians belonging to France Insoumise (France Unbowed) stood up waving signs and singing the Marseillaise. The parliamentarians belonging to Rassemblement National, Marine Le Pen’s semifascist organization, banged on their desks and yelled “Resign!” as they tried to exploit the mass anger at Macron with demagoguery.

Some of the other members of

parliament just sat at their desks and waited for the din to die down, while others walked out to protest Borne’s undemocratic but constitutional proclamation.

Outside of Paris, the General Confederation of Labor (CGT, the leading union group) called some of the more militant and organized protests, which were attacked by the cops with water cannons and tear gas. There were large marches through major shopping centers and department stores in Paris by a group of youthful workers calling for a general strike. The strikes at the French refineries are intensifying, and in some areas

gasoline has become hard to find.

In Paris and a few other cities where sanitation workers are on strike, protesters set fires in the dumpsters that were filled with garbage, as the cops chased them through the streets.

One can hear tweets of workers’ chants that invoke the 1789 French Revolution: “Louis Sixteenth, we cut off his head; Macron, Macron, we can start this again,” and a group of sanitation workers — referring to the current war in Ukraine — chanting, “Money for wages, money for pensions, not for war!”

Some 650,000 students are scheduled to take part of the baccalaureate examination Monday, March 20, which will determine where and what they study after graduation from secondary school. They face two problems: Scattered strikes in mass transit might affect their ability to get to the exam sites, and some of the teachers who administer the test are on strike.

To avoid disrupting the youths’ exam, the union coalition deliberately chose to wait a few days until March 23 to begin their protests, marches and strikes. The early part of the week is scheduled to be filled with parliamentary maneuvers and legal moves. The unions decided that union power is best applied in the street and on the shop floor. □



Paris, March 16, 2023.



Washington, D.C., March 18, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Protests  
denounce  
U.S.-led  
aggression  
3

Editorial:  
Reparations for Africa! 2



Ohio prisoners  
on hunger strike 3



Cyclone Freddy underscores inequalities

Reparations for Africa!

The United States has 5% of the world’s population but is responsible for 28% of annual carbon emissions in the world — about 15 tons per capita per year. For the wealthiest 10%, it is closer to 55 tons per capita!

In contrast, the second-largest and second-most populous continent — Africa — produces just 4% of the world’s greenhouse gasses. But Africa suffers disproportionately from climate-driven disasters.

With a death toll over 500 and rising, Cyclone Freddy has devastated Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. Lasting over a month, it is believed by the World Meteorological Association to be the longest-lasting cyclone ever recorded.

Freddy was exceptional in other ways too, none of them beneficial. This particularly powerful storm generated as much energy as a whole season of hurricanes in the U.S. It had a high number of sudden accelerations, with gusts as high as 132 miles per hour. The cyclone had an uncommon trajectory, hitting Madagascar first, then moving west to Mozambique, back east to the Indian Ocean, to Mozambique again and finally hitting Malawi, having traveled a total of 5,000 miles. (npr.org)

Malawi was hit the hardest, accounting for 80% of the deaths. Tens of thousands of people have lost their homes,



and many are surviving in trees to stay above the water. All three countries sustained massive infrastructure damage, with hospitals and schools leveled. People were left without access to food.

The region of Southeast Africa was already dealing with a cholera epidemic; now the destruction will magnify the suffering, as flooding hastens the spread of waterborne and mosquito-borne diseases. Many of the deceased are buried deep in the mud and may never be found. Parts of the affected area could remain underwater for some time to come.

Malawi’s carbon emissions are less than one-tenth of a ton per capita. The people of the former British colony are suffering immensely from a global warming catastrophe they did not create.

Legacy of enslavement, colonization

The challenges of recovering from the storm are compounded by the global divide between fabulous wealth and extreme deprivation. Although Africa is rich in mineral wealth, it has the highest poverty rate of any continent. Of its 54 countries, 34 are among the poorest 50 in the world, with 40% of Africa’s people surviving on less than \$1 per day. Yet the United Nations has offered the three countries impacted by Cyclone Freddy just \$10 million in aid for recovery.

Africa’s poverty stems from the brutal history of enslavement and colonization. The massive theft — not only of mineral wealth but of somewhere between 12 million and 20 million human beings — funded the expansion of capitalism, making it the dominant mode of production globally. Imperialism, the highest stage of capitalism, characterized by the growth of monopoly and the domination of finance capital, came into being on the backs of African people.

Trillions of dollars are owed to Africa and Africans in the diaspora for stolen resources, labor and people.

Reparations now! Make the billionaires pay! □

Join us in the fight for socialism!

Workers World Party is a revolutionary Marxist-Leninist party inside the belly of the imperialist beast. We are a multinational, multigenerational and multigendered organization that not only aims to abolish capitalism, but to build a socialist society because it’s the only way forward!

Capitalism and imperialism threaten the peoples of the world and the planet itself in the neverending quest for ever-greater profits.

Capitalism means war and austerity, racism and repression, attacks on im/migrants, misogyny, LGBTQ2S+ oppression and mistreatment of people with disabilities. It means joblessness, increasing homelessness and impoverishment and lack of hope for the future. No social problems can be solved under capitalism.

The U.S. is the richest country in the world, yet no one has a guaranteed right to shelter, food, water, health care, education or anything else — unless they can pay for it. Wages are lower than ever, and youth are saddled with seemingly insurmountable student debt, if they even make it to college. Black, Brown and Indigenous youth and trans people are gunned down by cops and bigots on a regular basis.

The ruthless ruling class today seeks to wipe out decades of gains and benefits won by hard-fought struggles by people’s movements. The super-rich and their political representatives have intensified their attacks on the multinational, multigender and multigenerational working class. It is time to point the blame at — and challenge — the capitalist system.

WWP fights for socialism because the working class produces all wealth in society, and this wealth should remain in their hands, not be stolen in the form of capitalist profits. The wealth workers create should be socially owned and its distribution planned to satisfy and guarantee basic human needs.

Since 1959, Workers World Party has been out in the streets defending the workers and oppressed here and

worldwide. If you’re interested in Marxism, socialism and fighting for a socialist future, please contact a WWP branch near you. □

If you are interested in joining Workers World Party contact: 212.627.2994

- National Office
147 W. 24th St., 2nd floor  
New York, NY 10011  
212.627.2994  
wwp@workers.org

Cleveland
cleveland@workers.org

Durham, N.C.
919.322.9970  
durham@workers.org

Houston
P.O. Box 3454  
Houston, TX 77253-3454  
713.503.2633  
houston@workers.org

Minnesota
minnesota@workers.org

Philadelphia
P.O. Box 34249  
Philadelphia, PA 19101  
610.931.2615  
phila@workers.org

Portland, Ore.
portland@workers.org

Salt Lake City
801.750.0248  
slc@workers.org

San Antonio
sanantonio@workers.org

West Virginia
WestVirginia@workers.org
- Atlanta
PO Box 18123  
Atlanta, GA 30316  
404.627.0185  
atlanta@workers.org

Austin
austin@workers.org

Bay Area
P.O. Box 22947  
Oakland, CA 94609  
510.394.2207  
bayarea@workers.org

Boston
284 Amory St.  
Boston, MA 02130  
617.522.6626  
boston@workers.org

Buffalo, N.Y.
335 Richmond Ave.  
Buffalo, NY 14222  
716.883.2534  
buffalo@workers.org

Central Gulf Coast
(Alabama, Florida, Mississippi)  
centralgulfcoast@workers.org

- ♦ In the U.S.
Protests denounce U.S.-NATO wars . . . . .3

♦ Around the World
France: Unions lead mass revolt . . . . .1

♦ Tear Down the Walls!
Phone zap for Ohio hunger strikers . . . . .3

♦ Editorials
Reparations for Africa! . . . . .2

♦ Noticias en Español
Soplan vientos nuevos desde China . . . . .4
Mumia Abu-Jamal: La paga de la desregulación . . 4

Online articles

- ♦ In the U.S.
Starbucks workers keep up fight in Portland . . LINK
‘Feed the people, not the U.S. war machine!’ . . LINK
San Francisco labor opposes racist Texas bill . . LINK
Philly activists sue cops, win \$10 million . . . LINK

♦ Around the World
A call to deepen class struggle in France . . . . LINK
Putin? Arrest George W. Bush! . . . . . LINK

♦ Women’s History Month
Courageous women of the Paris Commune . . LINK

Workers World  
147 W. 24th St., 2nd Fl.  
New York, NY 10011  
Phone: 212.627.2994  
E-mail: ww@workers.org  
Web: www.workers.org



Vol. 65, No. 12 • March 23, 2023  
Closing date: March 22, 2023  
Editors: John Catalinotto, Martha Grevatt, Deirdre Griswold, Monica Moorehead, Betsey Piette, Minnie Bruce Pratt  
Web Editors: ABear, Harvey Markowitz, Janet Mayes  
Tear Down the Walls! Editors: Mirinda Crissman, Ted Kelly  
Production & Design Editors: Gery Armsby, Sasha Mazumder  
Copyediting and Proofreading: Paddy Colligan, S. Hedgecoke  
Contributing Editors: G. Dunkel, K. Durkin, Sara Flounders, Gloria Rubac  
Mundo Obrero: Deborah Rodriguez, Carlos Vargas  
Copyright © 2023 Workers World. Verbatim copying and distribution of articles is permitted in any medium without royalty provided this notice is preserved.  
Workers World (ISSN-1070-4205) is published monthly by WW Publishers, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Phone: 212.627.2994. Subscriptions: One year: \$36; institutions: \$50. Letters to the editor may be condensed and edited. Articles can be freely reprinted, with credit to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl., New York, NY 10011. Back issues and individual articles are available on microfilm and/or photocopy from NA Publishing, Inc, P.O. Box 998, Ann Arbor, MI 48106-0998. A searchable archive is available on the Web at www.workers.org.  
A headline digest is available via e-mail subscription. Subscription information is at workers.org.  
Periodicals postage paid at New York, N.Y. POSTMASTER: Send address changes to Workers World, 147 W. 24th St. 2nd Fl. New York, N.Y. 10011.



# Protests denounce U.S.-NATO wars

By Joe Piette  
Washington, D.C.

Over 2,500 antiwar activists converged in front of the White House on March 18. The main demand of the action was to put an end to the U.S./NATO proxy war against Russia in Ukraine. Coalitions representing the most active antiwar and anti-imperialist movements cooperated to organize this countrywide demonstration. The date is the 20th anniversary of the invasion of Iraq by U.S. and British imperialism, which began a lengthy U.S. occupation of that country and resulted in a disaster for the Iraqi people.

Numerous speakers at the rally in Washington demanded that the Biden administration stop providing ever-increasing billions for the Ukraine War, that NATO be abolished, that U.S. militarism and sanctions end, and funds for people’s needs not the war machine.

They called for a halt to the U.S. push for war against China, an end to U.S. aid to racist apartheid Israel, to fight racism and bigotry at home not oppressed peoples in other countries, to end U.S. colonial activities against the Haitian people and to dissolve AFRICOM, the entity directing U.S. intervention in Africa.

Groups calling the demonstration included the United National Antiwar Coalition, ANSWER, Code Pink, Black Alliance for Peace and Veterans for Peace. Over 200 organizations, including Workers World Party, endorsed the action.

From the White House, people chanting and holding signs and banners marched to the headquarters of The Washington Post (which demonstrators called “the Pentagon Post,” due to its pro-militarist line) for a short protest in front of their locked doors. The day’s events ended with another rally inside the New York Avenue Presbyterian Church.

### San Francisco

A similar broad coalition of antiwar forces held a rally on March 18 at 24th and Mission Streets in San Francisco, followed by a march through the city’s Mission District. An estimated 250 to 300 took part in the spirited action.

Among the speakers were David Newton, a longshore worker and executive board member of International



International Longshore and Warehouse Union Executive Board member David Newton speaks, March 18, 2023, San Francisco.



Washington, D.C., March 18, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Longshore and Warehouse Union Local 10 and a nephew of Black Panther co-founder Huey P. Newton, and Dave Welsh, a retired postal letter carrier representing Workers World Party.

While the coalition focused its mobilization on Washington, D.C., and San Francisco, WW received reports from some other cities.

### Seattle

About 150 demonstrators rallied in downtown Seattle March 18, a step forward in the struggle against the U.S.-led war against Russia. The action was called by ANSWER and several other supporting organizations.

Speakers, including from Veterans for Peace, the Black Panther Party, ANSWER, Freedom Road Socialist Organization, La Resistencia and the Progressive Student Union at the University of Washington, represented a broad range of struggles.

Amy of Resist U.S.-Led War announced a “March on Boeing,” whose nearby factories produce both commercial and war planes, scheduled for March 26 at the



Washington, D.C., March 18, 2023.

WW PHOTO: JOE PIETTE

Boeing Museum of Flight. The protest will demand the University of Washington cut ties with Boeing, the war profiteer, as UW students resist Boeing’s war production.

Alon from Students for Palestinian Equality and Return at the University of Washington condemned the U.S./Israeli occupation of Palestine, the Zionist regime’s murders of 88 Palestinians so far this year and the attempt to denounce opposition to Zionism by equating it with anti-Semitism.

### Atlanta

In response to a call by Atlanta International Action Center, a multigenerational, multinational crowd gathered for a visibility protest at the busy intersection of Moreland Avenue and Freedom Parkway on March 18, to mark the 20th anniversary of the U.S. war on Iraq. The activists carried banners and signs denouncing U.S. imperialist wars abroad and at home. The main theme was: “Fund human needs, not war.” Endorsing groups included Black Alliance for Peace, Community Movement Builders, Atlantans for Peace in Ukraine, ANSWER and Georgia Detention Watch, among others.

Contributing to this article were Dave Welsh, Jim MacMahon and Dianne Mathiowetz.



Atlanta, March 18, 2023

WW PHOTO: MONICA MOOREHEAD

# Phone zap for Ohio State Penitentiary hunger strikers



Ohio prison activists issued the statement below.

People incarcerated at the Ohio State Penitentiary began a protest in mid-March and need our support to be successful in getting their demands met. Recently, guards at OSP have been forcing prisoners to stand in the showers for hours on end as a form of retaliation for speaking out. The protest seeks to end this form of punishment, as well as several other injustices inside the prison.

Without outside support and attention, protests like this one are much easier for the prison administration to sweep under the rug. It’s imperative that the administration hear from as many people as possible, so that they know we are paying attention to how they respond to this action.

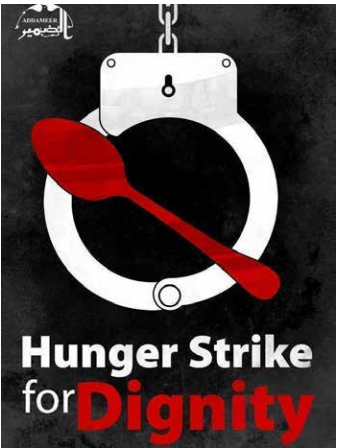
The protesters are asking that as many people as possible call the prison and ask the administration to meet

their demands!

**Call (330) 743-0700, ext 2600, between 8:00 a.m. and 2:30 p.m. EDT, and read the script as follows:**

Hello, I am calling on behalf of the incarcerated people of OSP. I believe their demands are just and should be met as soon as possible. Those demands are as follows:

- An immediate end to the practice of retaliating against inmates by making them stand in showers for extended periods of time;



Graphic from campaign supporting Palestinian prisoners on hunger strike.

- For independent representatives from Columbus to be present for security reviews in order to ensure purposeful review of staff;
  - An increase in the size of food portions;
  - For commissary spending limits to be raised to \$80 or for commissary prices to be lowered;
  - To allow inmates full access to their tablets, as is standard in other Ohio institutions;
  - Reinstatement of the arts and crafts classes from the Dick Blick catalog;
  - For inmates to be provided with boxes for long term; and
  - For hot pots to be made available in the commissary as they are in other Ohio institutions.
- Will these demands be met in a timely manner? ☐





FOTO: CORRIE BOUDREAU, EL PASO MATTERS

Miles de manifestantes llenaron el centro de Juárez, México, cerraron las calles principales y cerraron el Puente Internacional Paso del Norte el Día Internacional de la Mujer Trabajadora, el 8 de marzo de 2023.

# Soplan vientos nuevos desde China

Por Sergio Rodríguez Gelfenstein

El pasado 7 de marzo, durante una conferencia de prensa celebrada en el marco de la primera sesión de la XIV Asamblea Popular Nacional (APN) en Beijing el recientemente designado Canciller de China Qin Gang afirmó que : “Si Estados Unidos no pisa el freno y sigue acelerando por el camino equivocado, no habrá barrera que pueda evitar el descarrilamiento y seguramente habrá conflicto y confrontación”. Agregó que la política de la potencia norteamericana en relación a China se había desviado completamente de la “vía racional y sensata”.

Este lenguaje, alejado de la tradición diplomática china sustentada en la mesura y el autocontrol, es expresión de cambios que se manifiestan no solo en la retórica y el discurso, sobre todo en la práctica y la propuesta. En algún momento, Deng Xiaoping expuso que la diplomacia china se debía caracterizar por “esconder la fuerza y aguardar el momento”. Es evidente que eso ha quedado en el pasado.

Los meses transcurridos de este año 2023, han sido testigo no sólo de una transformación de la retórica, también ha sido ostensible una intensa actividad diplomática por parte de China que pareciera querer ocupar el lugar que verdaderamente le corresponde en el sistema internacional como actor destacado y protagonista del proceso de trasformación que a todas luces, está iniciando.

Qin Gang, que el próximo 19 de marzo cumple 57 años, es parte de una nueva generación, tenía 10 años cuando fallecieron Mao Zedong y Chou Enlai y 12 cuando dio inicio la política de Reforma y Apertura en 1978. Es completamente ajeno a esa época. A los 26 años ingresó en el servicio exterior y tenía 46 cuando Xi Jinping fue electo como Secretario General del Partido Comunista de China por primera vez en 2012.

En ese momento, Qin Gang ocupaba el cargo de director general adjunto del Departamento de Información del Ministerio de Relaciones Exteriores. En sólo 12 años ascendió a la más alta responsabilidad de la cancillería de su país.

## ‘Guerreros lobos’

Esta nueva generación que se caracteriza por sostener una intensa actividad en las redes sociales no deja pasar afrenta

alguna a su país respondiendo con dureza en cada caso, al mismo tiempo que da a conocer sus propuestas y proyectos en todos los rincones de la Tierra. Con un lenguaje en el que no se escatima el sarcasmo, la ironía y la burla la novel diplomacia china ha sido bautizada como “Guerreros Lobos” por los medios trans-



Jóvenes rusos y chinos esperan a Xi Jinping en Moscú, 20 de marzo de 2023.

nacionales de comunicación de Occidente. El nombre da cuenta de los miembros de las Fuerzas Especiales de China que enfrentan exitosamente a mercenarios estadounidenses en una serie de televisión que con ese nombre paralizó el país durante dos temporadas en 2015 y 2017.

Con respecto a las relaciones de China con Rusia, un aspecto cardinal de la política exterior de su país en el momento actual, Qin Gang, manifestó que con ambos “trabajando juntos, el mundo tendrá la fuerza motriz para la multipolaridad y la democracia en las relaciones internacionales y el equilibrio estratégico global estará mejor garantizado”, haciendo de esa manera una exposición precisa y de carácter estratégico de los vínculos entre los dos países.

No se puede pasar por alto que en esta definición, en un solo párrafo, el nuevo canciller chino ha exteriorizado tres categorías que definen el campo de acción a futuro de la diplomacia china: multipolaridad, democracia y equilibrio estratégico global.

Para quien pudiera tener dudas respecto de la nueva orientación de la diplomacia china, fue el propio presidente Xi Jinping quien el día anterior, 6 de marzo, en su discurso durante la primera sesión del XIV Comité Nacional de la Conferencia Consultiva Política del Pueblo Chino se encargó de trazar el curso que adoptará el

país para los próximos años después de diagnosticar que: “Las condiciones exteriores para el desarrollo de China han cambiado drásticamente, con un aumento significativo de factores inciertos e impredecibles, sobre todo porque los países occidentales, encabezados por Estados Unidos han sometido a nues-



Jóvenes rusos y chinos esperan a Xi Jinping en Moscú, 20 de marzo de 2023.

tro país a una contención, asedio y represión totales, lo que supone retos graves y sin precedentes para nuestro desarrollo.”

## Gran Muralla de Acero

Xi estableció que ante la situación creada, China debía modernizar su ejército y convertirlo en una “Gran Muralla de Acero”. Además, insistió en que el país debe alcanzar la autosuficiencia tecnológica. Todo esto enmarcado en una gran reestructuración gubernamental que tendrá una profunda influencia en la economía y la sociedad del país. Para ello, también se avanzará en una intensa reforma del sistema financiero.

De la misma manera, Xi anunció que el plan de transformación estructural para afrontar los nuevos tiempos incluye la reforma de varios órganos del Partido Comunista y del gobierno. Esta reforma, que busca fortalecer la dirección del partido, involucrará a sus instituciones locales y centrales, la Asamblea Popular Nacional, el Consejo de Estado y el gabinete, así como a la Conferencia Consultiva Política del Pueblo Chino, el máximo órgano asesor de la nación.

Como expresión de esta tendencia, en el marco de la política exterior, en febrero, China dio a conocer una “Iniciativa de Seguridad Global” con el objetivo de

eliminar las causas profundas de los conflictos internacionales, mejorar la gobernanza de seguridad planetaria, estimular esfuerzos internacionales conjuntos que garanticen mayor estabilidad y den certeza y, promover una paz y un desarrollo duraderos en todo el mundo.

La propuesta se sustenta en seis principios: mantener el compromiso con la visión de una seguridad común, global, cooperativa y sostenible; respetar la soberanía y la integridad territorial de todos los países; respetar los objetivos y principios de la carta de la ONU; tomar en serio las preocupaciones de seguridad legítimas de todos los países; resolver las disputas entre las naciones de manera pacífica a través del diálogo y, finalmente, preservar la seguridad en los ámbitos tradicionales y no tradicionales.

No solo cambios en el discurso y la retórica se han comenzado a producir en China este año. El nombramiento del nuevo Canciller el 30 de diciembre pasado y el lanzamiento de la propuesta de “Iniciativa de Seguridad Global” en febrero, han sido acompañadas por una clara intencionalidad de empezar a jugar un papel mucho más relevante en el escenario internacional.

## Arabia Saudí y Irán

En este ámbito, en días recientes, se ha anunciado que, con la mediación de China, el reino de Arabia Saudí y la república islámica de Irán han decidido establecer relaciones diplomáticas, incidiendo con ello en una modificación radical del escenario político regional e incluso del global, asediándole un duro golpe al esquema de dominación de Estados Unidos en esa región que tiene como eje el sostenimiento del Estado sionista como plataforma de lanzamiento de la política imperial en el área para lo cual Washington se proponía crear fuertes alianzas del sionismo con algunos países árabes y musulmanes, todo lo cual ha recibido un duro golpe gestado a partir de la silenciosa y paciente diplomacia china.

Este hecho reducirá de forma significativa la posibilidad de un conflicto armado entre estos rivales regionales, ya sea en enfrentamientos directos o indirectos, lo cual podría incidir en la creación de condiciones que propicien un acuerdo político que detenga y le ponga fin a la prolongada guerra en Yemen, tal como se comenzado a conjeturar en algunas capitales de Asia Occidental.

En otro ámbito, pero también como expresión del gran esfuerzo diplomático de China a favor de la paz mundial, hace unas semanas se dio a conocer una propuesta de 12 puntos elaborada por Beijing para finalizar el conflicto en Ucrania a través de la negociación y el diálogo. Por ello, el presidente Xi realizará una visita a Moscú donde se reunirá con su colega ruso Vladimir Putin después de lo cual, sostendrá una conversación telemática con su par ucraniano Volodímir Zelenski.

De esta forma, mientras desde Washington y Bruselas soplan vientos de tormenta y tempestad, Beijing hace esfuerzos para, sin bajar la guardia, al mismo tiempo que rechaza las acometidas imperiales, trabaja para disminuir tensiones y hacer un aporte real y significativo a la paz y el desarrollo del planeta. □

# La paga de la desregulación

Por Mumia Abu-Jamal

Un tren corre por el aire fresco invernal una noche, sus ruedas girando sobre rieles de hierro hasta que pequeñas chispas estallan en llamas, provocando un descarrilamiento. Y en un abrir y cerrar de ojos, un pueblo en el oeste de Ohio se vuelve la más reciente escena de un desastre. Algunos de los vagones llevan cloruro de vinilo, y las llamas generadas por el gas



arrojan oscuras columnas de aire envenenado al cielo de la madrugada. La aldea de East Palestine irrumpe en convulsiones de miedo y furia, en un estruendo.

¿Cómo pudo pasar esto? ¿Cómo podría? Una manera es la táctica de los políticos deseosos de complacer a los votantes: recortar impuestos. ¿Saben qué más han promovido? La desregulación. Otro apreciado cortador de costos.

¿Sí o no? Pero la desregulación, esa medida favorita de los conservadores, también ha cortado algo más. La seguridad. El desastre que azotó a East Palestine dará a sus residentes palpitaciones de corazón y graves inquietudes durante

generaciones, por lo menos.

¿Cuántos dolores de cabeza, tipos de cáncer, o enfermedades desconocidas pueden resultar de este masivo derrame químico? Nadie sabe realmente.

La desregulación provoca desastres innecesarios. Significa, como dice el dicho, que lo barato sale caro. Y todavía puede costar más vidas.

Con amor, sin miedo, soy Mumia Abu-Jamal.

3 de marzo de 2023

—(c) '23 maj

Audio grabado por Prison Radio Traducción Amig@s de Mumia en México.